

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, June 21, 1898, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. June 21, 1898. My dear Alec:

I wanted to reply "Cant answer for the flirting — what shall I do?" but refrained on the score of economy which was fortunate as Daisy has been deluging me with telegrams. However since you don't forbid I will risk it. If either of our girls do fall in love with one of those boys I shall be sorry of course, but after Mr. Lindsley I wont grumble. Anyhow they are fine boys, will make fine men and I am sure will make fine husbands so there! Of course I would prefer Elsie's making a good match and she certainly does need money but then on the other hand she needs more than anything else very unselfish love and that's the main thing. Gilbert I think is strong — a match for her — Well — thats all — I don't want her to marry a penniless fellow but I certainly don't want her to have Lindsley with all the money he may have. He may not have any either to be sure, but I believe he has. And then there's George McKean. Now Alec dear be sensible and dont lend or give him any more money. We have not got one cent to spare and if we had I wouldn't give it to him. From our experience of him we know him to be entirely unreliable in money matters. I know that he has been dishonest in regard to that with more than one who has helped him. If you want to give any of the McKeen's money give it to Frank but not George, please don't. I hear that he has returned vastly improved but his last letter to you proves that he is still the same borrower and I thoroughly distrust him for what I know of him and from his letters to you and me.

Well I send you now a copy of my famous preface. Deal tenderly with it, but of course justly. I think I will send also my alternative preface. I have a certain sneaking liking for it and so I think has 2 Mamma but Charlie prefers the more labored one. All I can say

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for it is that it represents about the hardest work of the kind I ever did not only in literary composition but in the amount of studying and reading I did to verify every statement, however slight. One promising preface after another I discarded because I did not feel sure that I could point to the exact date for one or more statements. Now I think I could give you authority for every word. Is not that something?

I wish you could be here now it's like October — All the worse for July 5th. I am afraid. Now I must go.

Please don't come down but if you must at least come down other ways fast.

Yours ever, Mabel. June 21.